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September 4, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Paul F. Prouty
Acting Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Secretary Clinton and Acting Administrator Prouty:

The Department of State, in consultation with the General Services Administration, is in the process of establishing a Diplomatic Security Training Center. Currently, the Department of State security training is conducted at more than fifteen facilities across the nation. Consolidating these efforts into one location will provide a more effective, more efficient training program that will improve our ability to protect American foreign policy interests and, most importantly, our citizens at home and abroad.

I understand that the Department of State and the General Services Administration is considering a number of sites across the region, including one in Queen Anne's County, Maryland, as possible locations for the Diplomatic Security Training Center. Queen Anne's County is an exceptionally appealing and unique site for this critical facility for a number of reasons, including:

- Proximity to the Nation's Capital;
- Easily accessible, available, secure and private land;
- Educated workforce;
- Nearby amenities—restaurants, hotels, and shops;
- Existing infrastructure (including proximity to airports, key transportation arteries, and important utilities);
- Opportunities to coordinate and for “cross pollination” with other nearby federal security training centers including the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

in Cheltenham and the James J. Rowley Secret Service Training Center in Greenbelt;

- Close to five institutions of higher learning; (U.S. Naval Academy- Annapolis, Washington College- Chestertown, Chesapeake College- Wye Mills, St. John's- Annapolis, and Anne Arundel Community College- Arnold);
- Residents enjoy a good quality of life; and
- Strong support from local, state, and federal elected officials.

Locating the Diplomatic Security Training Center in Queen Anne's County would benefit both the Department of State and the local community. I am committed to working with my colleagues across all levels of government to provide the resources, support, and coordination that this important project would require.

Creating a centralized Diplomatic Security Training Center is critical to our national security. I urge a complete and fair review of all the potential locations and a final determination that is in the best interest of the taxpayer, ensures the safety of those serving our nation, and helps accomplish our foreign policy objectives. I am confident that the proposed site in Queen Anne's County offers the advantages necessary to accomplish these goals. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Frank M. Kratovil, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Frank M. Kratovil, Jr.